

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A paper guide of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus for guiding a printing paper entering a fusing unit, the paper guide comprising:
 - a guiding member guiding the printing paper into the fusing unit;
 - a plurality of guiding ribs formed on the guiding member to prevent direct contact of the printing paper with the guiding member; and
 - a blocking bar formed on a leading end near the fusing unit of the guiding member wherein a plurality of spaces between the plurality of guiding ribs are blocked by the blocking bar from a space where the fusing unit is formed.
2. The paper guide of claim 1, wherein the blocking bar has a triangular section with a slope steeper than a section of the guiding ribs.
3. The paper guide of claim 2, wherein the paper guide is made by a mold.
4. The paper guide of claim 2, wherein the paper guide is made by a press.
5. The paper guide of claim 1, wherein the blocking bar is formed at a same height as the guiding ribs.
6. The paper guide of claim 5, wherein the blocking bar has a triangular section with a slope steeper than a section of the guiding ribs.
7. The paper guide of claim 6, wherein the paper guide is made by a mold.
8. The paper guide of claim 6, wherein the paper guide is made by a press.
9. An electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising:
 - a paper supplying unit storing and supplying printing papers;
 - a developing unit developing an image on the printing paper supplied by the paper supplying unit;

a fusing unit fusing the image developed on the printing paper; and

a paper guide guiding the printing paper to the fusing unit after the printing paper has passed through the developing unit, wherein the paper guide comprises guiding ribs formed on a guiding member to prevent direct contact of the printing paper with the guiding member, and a blocking bar formed on a leading end near the fusing unit of the guiding member, wherein a plurality of spaces between the plurality of guiding ribs are blocked by the blocking bar from a space where the fusing unit is formed.

10. The electrophotographic image forming apparatus of claim 9, wherein the blocking bar is formed at a same height as the guiding ribs.

11. The electrophotographic image forming apparatus of claim 5, wherein the blocking bar has a triangular section with a slope steeper than a section of the guiding ribs.

12. The electrophotographic image forming apparatus of claim 6, wherein the paper guide is made by a mold.

13. The electrophotographic image forming apparatus of claim 6, wherein the paper guide is made by a press.

14. The paper guide of claim 1, wherein the plurality of spaces are heated by heat transmitted through the paper guide and maintain a same temperature as the paper guide.

15. The electrophotographic image forming apparatus of claim 9, wherein the plurality of spaces are heated by heat transmitted through the paper guide and maintain a same temperature as the paper guide.

16. The paper guide of claim 1, wherein heat is uniformly transmitted to a portion of the printing paper in contact with the plurality of guiding ribs and the portion of the printing paper in contact with the plurality of spaces.

17. The electrophotographic image forming apparatus of claim 9, wherein heat is uniformly transmitted to a portion of the printing paper in contact with the plurality of guiding ribs and the portion of the printing paper in contact with the plurality of spaces.

18. A method of printing an image on a printing paper in an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, the method comprising:

positioning the printing paper on a paper guide having a plurality of guiding ribs and a plurality of spaces between each of the guiding ribs, wherein the plurality of spaces are enclosed by the printing paper and are heated by heat transmitted through the paper guide and maintain a same temperature as the paper guide;

passing the printing paper over the paper guide;

inserting the printing paper into a fusing unit;

fusing the image onto the printing paper using the fusing unit;

guiding the printing paper toward a paper discharger unit; and

discharging the printing paper from the paper discharging unit.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising:

feeding the printing paper backward from the paper discharging unit into a double-side printing path;

inserting the printing paper into a developing unit with an unprinted side facing upward;

re-positioning the printing paper over the paper guide;

inserting the printing paper into the fusing unit; and

discharging the paper from the paper discharging unit.

20. The paper guide of claim 1, wherein the blocking bar is located on a front of the guiding member in a paper advancing direction.

21. The paper guide of claim 1, wherein the plurality of guiding ribs are formed on the guiding member in a paper advancing direction.

22. An electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising:

a paper supplying unit which stores and supplies printing papers;

a developing unit which develops an image on the printing paper supplied by the paper supplying unit;

a fusing unit which fuses the image developed on the printing paper; and

a paper guide which guides the printing paper to the fusing unit after the printing paper has passed through the developing unit, the paper guide comprising a plurality of guiding ribs formed on a guiding member, and a blocking bar formed on a leading end near the fusing unit of the guiding member, wherein a plurality of spaces are formed in a hexahedron shape and enclosed by the printing paper on a top portion and the blocking bar on a front portion and open on a rear portion to the developing unit when the printing paper is positioned on the plurality of guiding ribs.

23. A paper guide of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus for guiding a printing paper entering a fusing unit, the paper guide comprising:

a guiding member guiding the printing paper into the fusing unit;

a plurality of guiding ribs formed on the guiding member to prevent direct contact of the printing paper with the guiding member; and

a blocking bar disposed on a leading end of the guiding member in a proximity of the fusing unit wherein air in a plurality of spaces formed by the plurality of guiding ribs, is blocked from an outside air so as to remain at a same temperature as the plurality of guiding ribs.